

REVIEWS

THE SPLEEN AND ANEMIA: EXPERIMENTAL AND CLINICAL STUDIES.
By RICHARD MILLS PEARCE, M.D., Sc.D., EDWARD B. KRUMBHAAR,
M.D., Ph.D., and CHARLES HARRISON FRAZIER, M.D., Sc.D.
Pp. 419; 16 illustrations. Philadelphia and London: J. B.
Lippincott Company, 1918.

THIS volume, presenting both the experimental and clinical evidences of the relationship of the spleen to anemia, reflects accurately the present state of our knowledge of this involved problem. The material is presented in three different sections by the respective authors, and covers the experimental, clinical and surgical phases of the subject.

The first section, by Dr. Pearce, presents the experimental groundwork on which is based our present ideas of the relationship of the spleen to blood destruction and regeneration. This section embodies the detailed studies which have appeared from the Department of Research Medicine of the University of Pennsylvania during the past few years. The various theories of the relationship of the spleen to the hemopoietic system are considered. Theories rendered untenable in the light of experimental evidence are discarded and theories supported by like evidence are emphasized. The effect of experimental splenectomy on the blood picture, the hemopoietic system, and metabolism is considered in detail. Numerous control experiments are reported and the evidence carefully sifted. Nowhere are sweeping conclusions drawn. On the other hand, the author endeavors to present a careful and concise summary of the present state of knowledge on the relationship of the spleen to the problems of blood destruction and regeneration, and in this the book is notably successful.

The second section, by Dr. Krumbhaar, presents the modern views on the classification, symptomatology, pathology and therapeutics of the various non-infectious splenomegalies. Of special interest is the chapter on the effects of splenectomy in pernicious anemia. The literature on this subject has been carefully reviewed and analyzed, and the conclusions drawn from this study are both interesting and valuable.

The third section, by Dr. Frazier, deals exclusively with the surgical aspect of the problem. The modern technic of splenectomy,

which has developed as the result of the more extended use of the operation in recent years, is given in detail.

The volume as a whole should fill a long-felt need, presenting as it does all our modern knowledge of the experimental, clinical and surgical phases of this many-sided problem. The entire literature of the subject is reviewed and an exhaustive bibliography attached. The volume is ably and adequately illustrated; the plates, many in colors, of the pathological lesions in the various splenomegalies being especially excellent. To the clinician this volume should be of great value for the intelligent study and treatment of the so-called "splenic anemias."

A. C. W.

IMPOTENCE AND STERILITY, WITH ABERRATIONS OF THE SEXUAL FUNCTION AND SEX-GLAND IMPLANTATION. By G. FRANK LYDSTON, M.D., D.C.L., Formerly Professor of Surgical Diseases of the Genito-urinary Organs and Syphilology in the Medical Department of the State University of Illinois. Pp. 322; 26 illustrations. Chicago: Riverton Press, 1917.

UNTIL comparatively recent years little attention was paid to the subject of aberrations of the sexual function by the reputable physician, indeed the apathy exhibited toward diseases of this type usually encouraged the sufferer to visit the quack, who accordingly became fat and prosperous. In presenting this monograph on impotence and sterility, the author has covered the subject not only from the theoretical stand-point but has gone into quite some detail concerning the experimental work that has been done by himself and others and the practical application of such work. That he is a firm believer in the practicability of sex-gland implantation is evidenced by the fact that he transplanted a testicle from a dead body into himself with results that were quite satisfactory. To the reader, the account of this experiment together with the several other interesting and successful transplants would seem to indicate that Lydston had discovered the fountain of perennial youth which Ponce de Leon failed to find.

Granting that the author is correct in his belief that the results of his experiments have conclusively proved that transplantation of sex glands even from the dead body is both practicable and successful, the reviewer is willing to be considered somewhat conservative in hesitating to accept the proposition of advising transplantation in the treatment of senile dementia, dementia precox, neurasthenia, arteriosclerosis, psoriasis, various sexual perversions and the many other widely divergent conditions as suggested by the author, who is undoubtedly carried a bit too far by the enthusiasm resulting from a few of his experiments.

F. B. B.